

Appln No. 10/613,494
Amdt date September 26, 2006
Reply to Office action of July 26, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 1, 2, 4 - 7, and 9 - 19 are pending of which Claims 1, 7, 15 and 19 are independent. Claim 1 is amended. New claim 19 is added.

The Examiner has found Claims 2, 10, 12, 16 and 18 allowable if rewritten into independent form. New claim 19 is added that rewrites the allowable claim 2 into independent form.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 5 - 7, 9, 11, and 13 - 15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kishi (EP 1,065,650A2). However, Ohba (U.S. 5,670,974) is also cited for rejection of Claim 11. Claims 4 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Kishi in view of Ohba.

The Applicant's amended Claim 1 now calls for "a first switch and a second switch being coupled in series between a first power source for supplying a first voltage and a first terminal of the panel capacitor; a third switch and a fourth switch being coupled in series between the first terminal of the panel capacitor and a second power source for supplying a second voltage ... wherein either the first voltage or the second voltage is a negative voltage." (Emphasis added.) Applicant submits that Kishi does not disclose these limitations and as such believes that Claim 1 is not anticipated by Kishi.

The Examiner equates the first voltage of Claim 1 with the voltage 0 in Kishi and the second voltage of Claim 1 with $V_s/2$. Accordingly, if the first voltage of Kishi is ground and the second voltage is $V_s/2$, then Kishi does not disclose that "the first voltage or the second voltage is a negative voltage." As such, amended Claim 1 is distinguished from Kishi.

Claims 2 and 4 - 6 are dependent on Claim 1. Ohba, which is cited against Claim 4 for disclosing the power recovery section, does not cure the deficiency of Kishi. As such, these claims are believed allowable based upon Claim 1.

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Moreover, the distinguishing factor raised above is not insignificant. According to page 2 of the Office Action, the first and second switches of Claim 1 are disclosed by SW5 and SW3 of Kishi, respectively. Further, in figure 62 of Kishi that is provided in the Office Action, the voltage connected to SW3 is clearly shown as a ground voltage. Switches SW5 and SW3 of Kishi, if both closed, connect the panel capacitor to ground. Therefore, as explained below, equating SW5 and SW3 with the first and second switches of Claims 1 and 7, or with the third and fourth switches as done in the case of Claim 15, results in inconsistencies with the operation of the circuit of Kishi.

The circuit of Kishi operates by applying $V_s/2$ and $-V_s/2$ to the panel capacitor C_o and not by applying $V_s/2$ and 0 as the Examiner's reading of Claim 1 would suggest. Kishi in paragraph [0086] states: "Using the driving apparatus with this construction, the positive voltage ($+V_s/2$) and the negative voltage ($-V_s/2$) are alternately applied to the common electrode X of the load 20, as shown on the output line OUTC in Fig. 10." The panel capacitor of Kishi is at $V_s/2$ when SW1 and SW4 are closed and all other switches are open. This panel capacitor is at $-V_s/2$ when SW2 and SW5 are closed and all other switches are open. However, if SW5 (the first switch) and SW3 (the second switch) are closed together, the panel capacitor goes to ground instead of going to $-V_s/2$ and this is not the operation intended or described by Kishi.

Claim 7 calls for "a first switch and a second switch being coupled in series between a first power source supplying a first voltage and a first terminal of the panel capacitor; a third switch and a fourth switch being coupled in series between the first terminal of the panel capacitor and a second power source supplying a second voltage ... wherein ... the first voltage and the second voltage are alternately applied to the first terminal of the panel capacitor." (Emphasis added.) Applicant submits that Kishi does not disclose these limitations and as such believes that Claim 7 is not anticipated by Kishi.

According to page 4 of the Office Action, the first voltage is 0 and the second voltage is $V_s/2$. Then, alternately applying the first and the second voltages to the panel capacitor would

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constitute alternately applying 0 and $V_s/2$ to the panel capacitor. However, as paragraph [0086] of Kishi describes, the switches of Kishi are operated to apply $-V_s/2$ and $V_s/2$ to the panel capacitor. Kishi does not disclose closing the switches SW5, cited against the first switch, and SW3, cited against the second switch, to send the voltage of the panel capacitor to ground. As such, Kishi does not anticipate the elements of Claim 7 as they are being interpreted by the Examiner.

Claims 9 - 14 are dependent on Claim 7. Ohba does not cure the deficiency of Kishi. As such, these claims are also believed allowable based upon Claim 7.

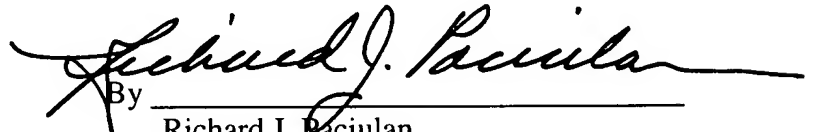
Claim 15 calls for "A method for driving a plasma display panel by alternately applying a first voltage and a second voltage ... to a first terminal of a panel capacitor ... the method comprising: applying the first voltage to the first terminal of the panel capacitor by turning on the first switch and the second switch ... applying the second voltage to the first terminal of the panel capacitor by turning on the third switch and the fourth switch." (Emphasis added). The Examiner cites SW4 and SW1 against the first and second switches of Claim 15 and SW5 and SW3 against the third and fourth switches of this claim, respectively. However, for this claim the first voltage is equated with $V_s/2$ and the second voltage is equated with 0 such that the operation of Kishi remains at odds with the manner that the Examiner is interpreting Claim 15. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Kishi does not anticipate Claim 15 for reasons similar to those cited above with regard to Claims 1 and 7.

Claims 16 - 18 are dependent on Claim 15. Ohba does not cure the deficiency of Kishi. As such, these claims are believed allowable based upon Claim 15.

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Accordingly, in view of the above amendment and remarks it is submitted that the claims are patentably distinct over the cited references and that all the rejections to the claims have been overcome. Reconsideration of the above Application and allowance of all of the pending claims is requested.

Respectfully submitted,
CHRISTIE, PARKER & HALE, LLP


By _____
Richard J. Paciulan
Reg. No. 28,248
626/795-9900

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